



More News 3rd May 2024

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Newsletter



All Made in the Image and Likeness of God - The Umbrella Project

Over the next few months you will see colourful umbrellas appearing around school. STM is taking part in the Umbrella Project, linked with the ADHD Foundation, The Neurodiversity Charity. The project aims to raise awareness of the conditions that fall under the umbrella term of 'neurodiversity', which include: dyslexia, autism, ADHD, dyspraxia, dyscalculia and Tourette's. It is estimated that 1 in 5 people have some sort of neurodiversity which means their brain functions in a different way. That means in our school there are likely to be 60-70 children (plus staff!) who are neurodivergent. There is lots to celebrate about being part of a community with neurodivergent people in it - many people find they are particularly creative, enthusiastic, imaginative, fearless, quick-witted, driven and/or fun to be with.

In wow assembly this morning, Mrs Webster reminded us that we are all made in the image and likeness of God, which means we are perfect being just the way God made us and she explained more about the umbrella term of neurodivergence and talked about some of the people who have achieved great things who are neurodivergent.

At St Thomas More, we celebrate our differences!

Year 1 & 2 invited to Mass

Year 1 & 2 and their families are invited to the parish Mass on Sunday 12th May at 9.00am in the church. Fr Simon will offer a blessing. This is a lovely opportunity for children and families to worship with their peers and the wider St Thomas More community. All are welcome including our families who are non Catholic.

Spring Fayre - Non-Uniform Day

The Spring Fayre (Saturday 18th May) is nearly upon us! Just like the Christmas Bazaar, there will be a chocolate and sweets tombola and a bottle tombola. We will be holding a non-uniform day on Friday 10th May to gather prizes for these stalls. We are asking children in Early Years and KS1 (Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2) who wear non-uniform to bring in a donation of sweets or chocolate (no nuts please!) which can be used as prizes on the chocolate and sweets tombola. We are asking those children in KS2 (Years 3-6) who wear non-uniform that day to bring in a bottle that can be used as a prize for the bottle tombola. Whilst bottles of wine (or even something stronger!) are always appreciated for the customers they bring to the tombola, we appreciate that some families will not wish to provide alcohol, so please send in alternatives for the bottle stall if this applies to you.

All donations will be collected on the gate so children will not be carrying the chocolate, sweets and bottles into school!

Parish and School Spring Fayre

St Thomas More School and Parish will be holding a Spring Fayre (replacing the Summer Fayre) in the school grounds on Saturday 18th May from 12-2pm.

There will be lots to buy and do at the fayre, so please add the date to your diaries! More details will follow in the coming weeks. If you would like to to like to rent a stall please contact admin.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk



Y4 Enjoy Conkers

Year 4 had a wonderful time at Conkers yesterday, getting closer to nature and enjoying working with each other to find out about the world around them.







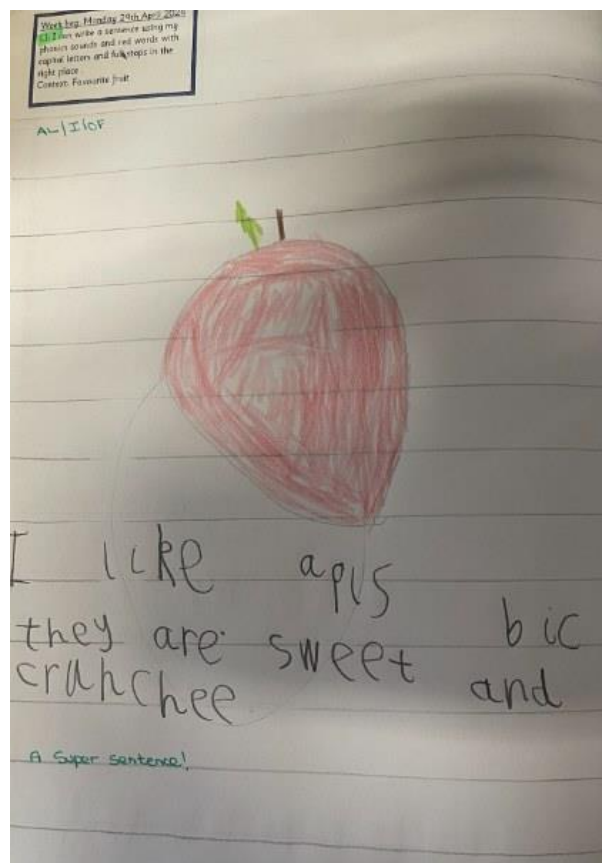


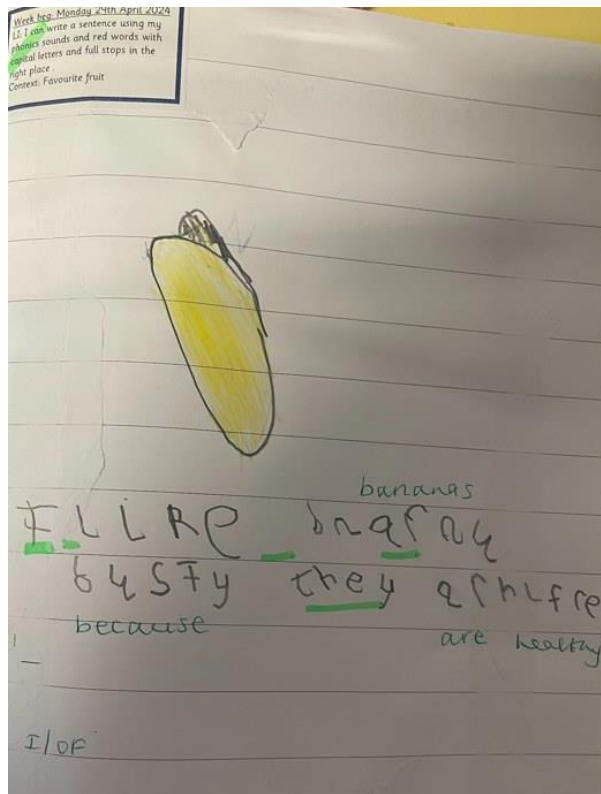
Reception Learn About Africa

Our work about Africa and the story Handa's surprise has really taken off! We are very lucky to have a trainee teaching assistant, Cecelia, who works with us on a Thursday and Friday. She has proudly shared the traditions from her cultural heritage of Ghana with the children. She has shown them some traditional dress and the meaning of the prints on the fabric and talked about what village life is like in Africa. The children loved watching her balance a heavy tray of fruit on her head and wanted to have a go to! This has inspired us to have a mud hut in the role-play area where the children can explore what daily life is like in a culture that is different from their own. The children have loved pretending to catch fish, collect food from the farm, cook on a fire and play African musical instruments. Next, they would like to find out more about the animals that live in Africa and about African drumming and dancing. Watch this space!



The children enjoyed their learning so much they were inspired to do some fantastic writing about their favourite fruits.





PTFA News!

STM Virtual Balloon Race - Win Prizes including £50 Amazon Gift Card!



Join the STM Virtual Ballon Race! Design a balloon to fly in the race and then follow your balloon's progress online as the race takes place over half term.

Prizes:

1st Placed balloon - £50 Amazon Gift Card.

2nd and last placed balloons - £25 Amazon Gift Card.

It's only £2 to enter a balloon into the race, and it's really easy to create your own unique design.

You can also track your balloon throughout race to see your position.

Race starts: 6pm Saturday 25th May.

Race finishes: 6pm Tuesday 4th June.

Once you have bought a balloon, you'll be able to see it on the start line by just clicking on "see the balloons in flight".

All funds raised go directly to the STM PTFA and will be used to enrich the school experience for the children at STM including, contributions to school trips, activities, and also vital school equipment.

Click on the link below to buy a balloon for the race. The very best of luck!

<https://www.balloonrace.net/stmrpsp>

School Disco

The summer term school disco is approaching!

Discos will take place on Friday 17th May in the school hall.

- Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2: 5.15-6.15pm **Nursery and Reception parents must stay please.**
- Years 3 and 4: 6.30-7.30pm
- Years 5 & 6: 7.45-8.45pm

This is the day after SATs finishes, so a great opportunity for Year 6 to get together, let their hair down and enjoy the feeling of achieving something special after working so hard!



The disco can only go ahead with enough help from parents! If you plan to stay, then why not join in, get to know some of the other parents and help to raise money that goes directly to supporting and even fully providing the 'nice' things that happen in school like subsidising the cost of trips for every child in school and the Year 6 party.

If you are able to help at any of the discos, please register your support by following this [link](#).

Pre-loved Uniform

Thank you to the PTFA for running the pre-loved uniform sale at the parent/carer consultations. Good quality items of pre-loved uniform at extremely reasonable prices are a very popular way for parents to ensure children are smartly dressed in the correct uniform in an affordable way.

Please can any good-quality, washed uniform that you no longer need be donated to the pre-loved uniform stock - we are especially looking for ties, summer dresses, polo shirts and shorts at the moment.

If you missed the sale at the parent/carer consultations, you can still order any available pre-loved uniform using the click and collect order form available on the [PTFA page](#) of our website.

Census Day Meal - Thursday 16th May

OCS Catering would like to share this special menu that will hopefully create some enthusiasm amongst the children who don't normally take school meals!

Please inform the school office if your child normally takes a packed lunch, and would like to order a school meal on this day, via email STM_admin@hccmac.co.uk by noon on Monday 13th May.

Thank you for your continued support.



Can You Help? We need a Van!

Are you able to help us to transport approx 30 wooden pallets from Earlsdon to STM school? If you are able to help, please contact the office who will arrange the details and get back to you. Thank you!

Cultural Diversity Day - Tuesday 21st May

The school will be marking Cultural Diversity Day on Tuesday 21st May. We are planning a day of celebrating our own and others' cultural heritage. On this day, children are invited to come into school dressed in clothing that they feel represents their cultural heritage - this could be traditional dress, clothing that is the colour of the national flag, national sports kit or something else representative. If children have more than one culture in their heritage, they could choose one, or all of them to be represented in their clothing. Please ensure that clothing is appropriate and respectful of all in our community (e.g. not overtly political or inciting of conflict) - the aim of the day is to celebrate, learn and find ways of understanding more about each other. We also ask that parents and carers do not spend money on clothing - clothing can be as simple as wearing a certain coloured t-shirt!

We have a wealth of cultures represented in our school and we're keen to learn about and from each other, celebrating our differences and understanding more about our friends. That week, children will be asked to deliver a presentation to their friends on their cultural heritage, sharing background information, what they feel it is important for other children to know, the things they're proud of, and even what else they would like to find out. To support children in preparing for this, they will

take home homework a couple of weeks before to help them gather information - please do support them in finding out more and discerning what they feel is important to share.

We are also inviting parents who would like to share information about their culture to come in and talk to children on the day of Tuesday 21st May. We ask that the content of the talk is similar to that shared by children - background information, things that are similar to our lives in Coventry and things that are different, important things to know about and anything else interesting and appropriate for primary-aged children. We will provide a list of questions that will help to structure the information. If you would like to share information about your cultural heritage with our children, please email school on the [admin](#) address to register your interest, letting us know who you are (parent of...) and which culture you would like to share with our children. We are hoping to get as much of a range as possible that represents our school community.

Calling all gardeners, handy-people and willing hands!

Mrs Swan, Mrs Grant and Mrs Mullin have made it their mission to tidy up and make ready for action our Forest School area! On the morning of Saturday 11th May they will be working to make sure our Forest School area is safe and ready for pupils to use in the following weeks. They are asking for any volunteers within our school community who would be able to pick up their secateurs or shears and help. If you are able to support in this, please come along to school on this morning, bringing along any tools you feel will be useful (secateurs, forks, trowels, shovels, wheelbarrows, etc) and come and help to make our grounds even more inviting. Lots of the work in clearing back involves prickles, so we advise wearing gardening gloves and appropriate clothing. Unfortunately, due to the potential hazards involved in this type of activity, we ask that children do not attend.

The school will be open from 8am until lunchtime, so please drop by within these hours if you can offer an hour or two of support.

Attendance is important!

We monitor all pupils' attendance and will contact you (often by letter and text message) if their attendance is getting lower than we'd expect. Please don't be offended - we have a duty to keep you informed of things that can affect your child's progress and/or wellbeing.

Lastly, please remember that term-time holidays **will not be authorised** and, in many cases, will result in a Fixed Penalty Notice (fine) being issued.

Whole school attendance so far this year is 95.8%

Attendance this week is as follows:

Year R	99.7%
Year 01	97.7%
Year 02	99.7%
Year 03	97.6%
Year 04	96.0%
Year 05	96.6%
Year 06	96.8%

Parish facilities

Planning a party/event? Looking for a Venue?

The Margaret Roper Room at Church is available for hire for parties and events. It is in high demand, so enquire early about dates. Excellent kitchen facilities available. Holds approximately 80 guests. Hire charge £30.00 per hour. Please enquire to: admin.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk



Important Dates

- Monday 6th May School Closed Bank Holiday
- Friday 10th May: Non-uniform day, bring chocolate/a bottle
- Saturday 11th May, 8am- noon: Community gardening event in our Forest School area
- Saturday 18th May, 12-2pm: Spring Fayre on school grounds
- Tuesday 21st May: Cultural Diversity Day, wear clothing that represents cultural heritage
- Tuesday 4th June: School photographer, class/group photos